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Harassment lawsuits settled out of court

Regents must approve settlement

BY CAROLINE LYNCH
Herald reporter

Attorneys representing Western made a settlement agreement in three lawsuits last week involving an employee Western paid to leave after he was accused of sexually harassing 10 women at the Glasgow Campus.

Former Glasgow students Tammy Collins, Janet Faye Short and Jessica Allen filed lawsuits against the university in the summer of 1999, accusing university officials of improperly handling their harassment claims against former Glasgow Campus Director C. Wayne Jones.

The women filed their complaints in U.S. District Court and were seeking punitive and compensatory damages.

Bowling Green attorney Steven Thornton, who represented Allen and Short, confirmed that a settlement had been made but said that he couldn't disclose the details, including the amount of the settlement.

"All I can say is that there is a settlement," he said. "We have a mutual agreement that we would not discuss those details."

President Gary Ransdell said Friday that though the attorneys may have come to an agreement, Western's Board of Regents has to agree before it is made final.

"I don't have any documentation and the Board will certainly discuss any matter related to those cases and proceed accordingly," Ransdell said.

He said the university will not proceed unless it is in collaboration with the Board of Regents. He expects to discuss the matter in an Executive Session at this Friday's meeting.

SEE LAWSUITS, PAGE 3

INSIDE

Safety walk uncovers dangers on campus

SGA President Cassie Martin and Gene Tice, vice president for Student Affairs and Campus Services led a walk around campus Thursday to identify dark areas which pose safety threats. **Page 3**

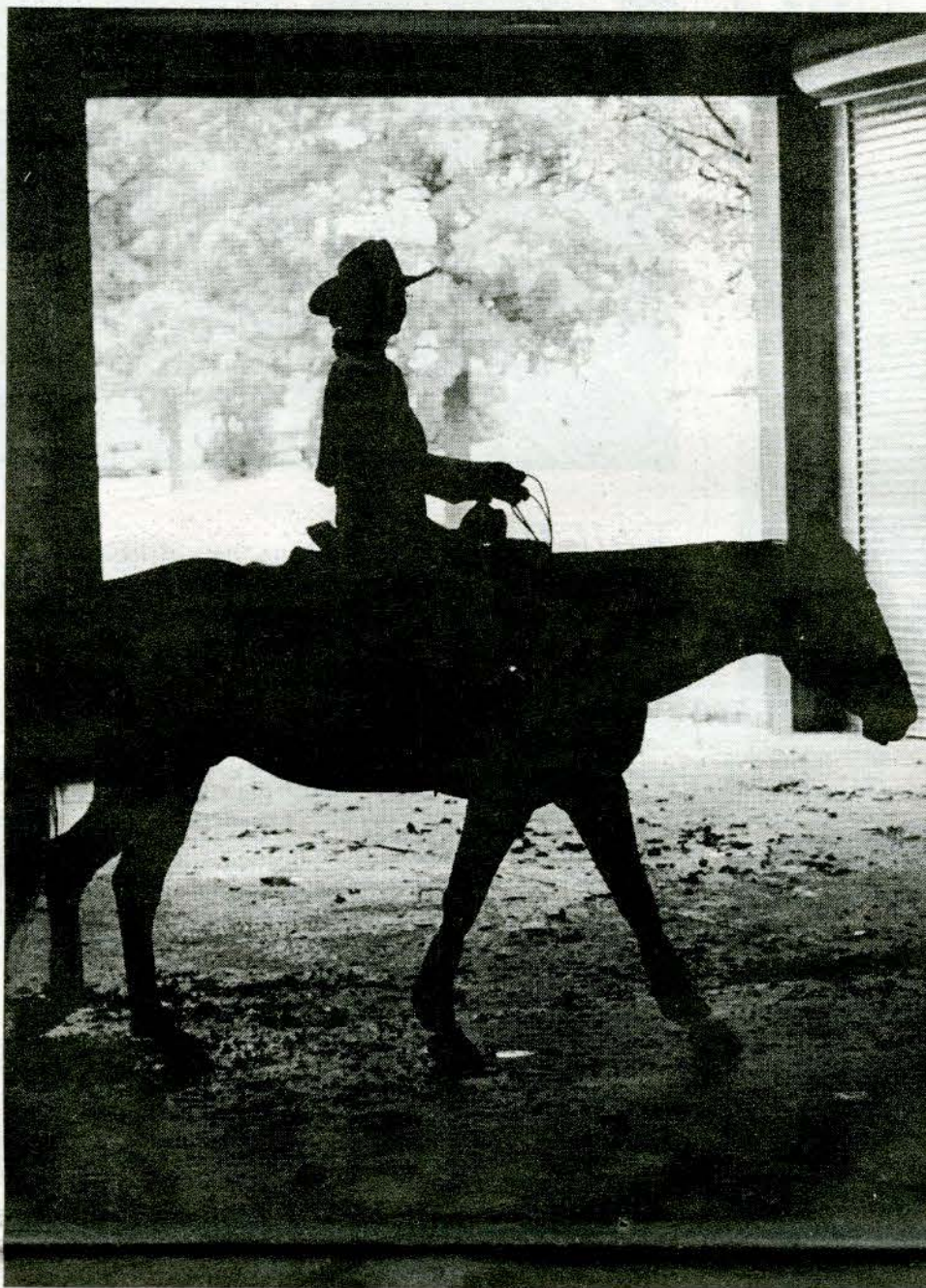
Student starting Campus Scouts program

After almost dying from bacterial meningitis, Emily Shults has fully recovered and is focusing on starting a club for outdoor activities. **Page 7**

Toppers continue to dominate the football field

Western's football team, now 7-0 after its win over Tennessee State, is hoping to clinch the OVC championship over Eastern Illinois Saturday. **Page 9**

www.wkuherald.com



Above: Emmy Wolfe of Catlettsburg and her horse Smoke The Pack warm up before their performance in the freestyle division of Saturday's National Reining Horse Association competition. Wolfe came in second in the division.

Right: Jack Lidester, left, of Windgate, Ind., and Larry McDaniel of Morgantown, Ind., wait by the stables for their turn to compete.



photos by Jaclyn McCabe/Herald

Taking the REINS

BY JACLYN MCCABE
Herald photographer

The fastest-growing form of Western riding, reining has been an Olympic demonstration sport in both Atlanta and Sydney and is expected to be a competition sport in 2004.

Reining is a type of Western riding requiring horsemen to maneuver their horses through moves as simple as a single circle to routines requiring circles, pivoting around a stationary hoof and moving forward and backward.

On Saturday, Western's Agricultural Exposition Center hosted a National Reining Horse Association competition.

The NRHA has competitions all over the world every weekend and gives professionals and non-professionals a chance to compete for money and world titles.

Big Red falls victim to bookstore bandits

Stuffed mascot worth about \$500

BY REX HALL JR.
Herald reporter

Big Red has been stolen and Dineka McGowan can't help but laugh.

McGowan, a cashier at the WKU Bookstore, told campus police Thursday the giant stuffed Big Red doll was stolen by two men just minutes before the bookstore closed for the day.

"I think it's kind of silly myself," McGowan said.

For campus police, however,

the situation is no laughing matter. The stuffed Big Red is worth \$499.95, and stealing the doll is a felony.

Capt. Mike Wallace said investigators have not had a chance to look into the theft but will begin their investigation soon.

"It's a high-risk situation if they are caught with (the stuffed Big Red)," Wallace said. "Whoever is responsible, we are talking about a felony charge. It's pretty stupid to take that risk."

McGowan told campus police she was in the store with two co-workers when two men entered at 6:50 p.m. McGowan

SEE BANDITS, PAGE 6

Students oppose athletics fee increase, survey says

BY BRANDY WARREN
Herald reporter

Students are overwhelmingly rejecting the proposed student athletics fee increase, according to a survey conducted by the Student Government Association.

Surveys passed out in residence halls have been piling up in the SGA office, and most of them are from students who say they do not want a fee increase.

"It's not just me, anymore," SGA President Cassie Martin said. "I have what (the students) want in my hands."

Over a week ago, the executive committee of the Board of Regents voted to increase the student athletics fee by \$80. They proposed that the fee be imple-

mented in two \$40 phases, with the first increase coming next semester.

SGA immediately began distributing surveys to take the pulse of the student body. Respondents were asked whether they wanted the new fee to be implemented all at once, phased in, segmented or not increased at all.

SGA Vice President Leslie Bedo said there has been minimal support for a fee increase that would be implemented all at once. She said most of the surveys said there should be no fee increase or that the fee should be phased in.

SEE SURVEY, PAGE 6

Weather forecast

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
76° 60°	80° 57°	75° 50°	70° 45°	65° 40°
Scattered showers	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Slightly cooler

T: 75°/53°, showers
W: 77°/54°, m. cloudy
R: 74°/50°, scat. showers
F: 67°/40°, cooler
S: 60°/37°, m. cloudy

• Louisville

• Lexington

• Owensboro

T: 78°/56°, scat. showers
W: 80°/55°, m. cloudy
R: 72°/50°, scat. showers
F: 67°/40°, fair
S: 60°/37°, cool

• Paducah

T: 75°/55°, m. cloudy
W: 80°/80°, hazy
R: 70°/50°, p. cloudy
F: 65°/43°, sunny
S: 60°/40°, fair

• Nashville

R: 80°/54°, showers
F: 82°/60°, m. cloudy
S: 76°/55°, p. cloudy
T: 70°/40°, fair
M: 62°/36°, cooler

Weather information provided by StormCenter 12, where you can get an updated forecast at 6 tonight.

STORM 12
CENTER



Jaclyn McCabe/Herald

Fall Pranks: Phi Delta Theta members Jimmy Tussey, left, a senior from Clarksville, Tenn., Mt. Washington senior Troy Wood and Shelbyville senior Jeremy Rowlette gather leaves from their yard to pile onto a pledge's truck as a fall prank.

Crime Reports

Arrests

◆Isaac Elias Dodd, Cadiz, was charged Wednesday with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of prescription controlled substance not in original container. He was released Thursday from Warren County Regional Jail on time served.

◆Antwan Lamar Thomas, Barnes-Campbell Hall, was charged Thursday with theft of property lost, stolen or delivered by mistake. He was released the

same day from Warren County Regional Jail on \$500 cash bond.

◆Bradley Andrew Davis, Barnes-Campbell, was charged Thursday with theft of property lost, misplaced or delivered by mistake. He was released the same day from Warren County Regional Jail on time served.

Reports

◆Robin N. Aniton, Poland Hall, reported Oct. 17 she was assaulted by a woman in Poland, Room 416 at 12:10 a.m.

◆Officer Joe D. Harbaugh, campus police, reported Wednesday \$100 in damage to the rear passenger window of a 1984 Chevrolet S-10 owned by Troy A. Ransdell, Barnes-Campbell. Speakers worth \$210 were taken from the vehicle, which was parked in the Normal lot between 4 p.m. Oct. 14 and 1:02 a.m. Wednesday.

◆Kody R. Kappas, Poland, reported Oct. 17 a Western parking tag worth \$60 stolen from her 1993 Chevrolet Corsica parked in the Service Supply lot between 4 a.m. Oct. 16 and 1:30 p.m. Oct. 17.

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Students, staff take walk of campus to identify hazards

BY BRANDY WARREN
Herald reporter

Campus leaders and administrators were left standing in the dark last Thursday night.

Student Government Association President Cassie Martin and Gene Tice, vice president for Student Affairs and Campus Services, led a group of nearly 20 students and staff around campus to find dark areas that pose safety threats. Several problem areas were identified and repair has already begun on some.

"This is something we can do once a semester," Martin said. She said the walk was a success and combined the needs of both students and staff.

Many of the problems were located at the south end of campus near Zacharias Hall. Several lights were out on a sidewalk between Sorority Hall and Pearce-Ford Tower. The group also felt there were safety concerns at Normal and Egypt Lots, both located across University Boulevard.

Many members of the groups said those parking lots were too dark at night and could be hazardous.

Other problem areas on campus were around Potter Hall, Thompson Complex, the Kentucky Building and the fountain area between the fine arts center and Helms-Craven Library.

"You get so used to seeing these areas, you don't see some of these concerns," Facilities Management Director Doug Ault said. He said members of his staff and police officers see these areas everyday and are quite familiar with them. They sometimes overlook the fact that the locations may be dangerous to those not familiar with them.

Ault had concerns about the number of lights out on campus. Several lights went out as the group walked up Normal Drive. Ault said while some of the lights out on campus are the responsibility of Facilities Management, others belong to Bowling Green

Municipal Utilities.

Ault said several of BGMU's lights that had gone out were called in late Thursday night. The lights that are operated by Facilities Management will be fixed as soon as possible.

Ault said Facilities Management's bucket truck is broken and said he will try to borrow a truck to replace the lights.

Ault said a timer operates some of the lights on campus and some of them might be out because of a problem with that timer.

Tice said the lighting problems are not limited to blown light bulbs. He said there are several places that are too dark because lights aren't there to begin with. Replacing light bulbs, he said, is the easy part.

"The next step is to put a plan together," Tice said. He added that facilities will review problem areas, look at what needs to be done and how much the solution will cost. When cost is decided, Tice said funds will be found to solve the problem.

Another situation was encountered while crossing University Boulevard. They were nearly hit by an oncoming truck while crossing between Big Red Way and Normal Drive.

"I wanted them to experience University Boulevard the way students experience it," Martin said. "He saw it in full force that night."

Tice said he now understands the concerns students have about crossing University Boulevard.

"We have to come up with a solution," he said.

LAWSUITS: University mishandled investigation

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The allegations surfaced nearly two years before Jones left in November 1998, and some of the women claimed the harassment had been taking place for as long as five years. After two investigations, the first of which was later found to have numerous errors, a sexual harassment grievance committee recommended that Jones be terminated because the harassment claims were probably true.

Instead of heeding the recommendation, the university asked Jones to leave in exchange for a payment of \$11,443.33, 24 days' vacation pay and a neutral reference. Officials agreed not to tell any future employer about the

harassment charges.

A review committee appointed by Ransdell in August 1998 found that the university mishandled the first investigation on 11 counts, including improper handling of complaints, interfering in the investigation process, ignoring committee recommendations and not monitoring Jones after he was reprimanded.

The complaints filed said Jones repeatedly touched the women in a sexual manner, followed them to and from classes and made sexual remarks to them.

Western's attorney could not be reached for comment, and the amount of the settlement was not available. Any settlement payments made by Western will be open records.

Why Read About It?

Monday - Thursday

8 am - 6 pm

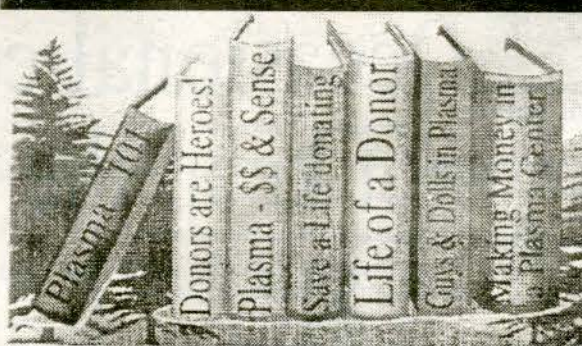
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Opinion

Don't make students pay for mistakes

When the Board of Regents votes Oct. 27 on whether to raise the student athletics fee by \$80, regents will have a chance to clearly demonstrate Western's priorities — and their own.

The board's Executive Committee has already endorsed Athletics Director Wood Selig's fee-hike plan, albeit with some dissent. If the increase passes, it will raise Western's athletics fee to \$122.50 per person, per semester.

Total student fees are now about \$180 per semester. Selig wants to hike them by almost 50 percent in one year, raising about \$2.4 million a year to cover the Athletics Department's perennial deficit.

Selig's stated goal is to improve the athletics program as only a huge infusion of cash can do. But however much it helps Hilltopper teams win, we fear that such a jump may have the opposite effect.

There's already enough resentment among faculty and students against perceived favored treatment for athletics. How will this fail to convince the disgruntled that they are right? One day, athletics will spend students' money on a game and nobody will come.

Yes, athletics runs a huge deficit, and has for years — a deficit exacerbated by miserably low ticket sales. What does that tell us except that the greatest interest in Western athletics lies in administrators' minds rather than amid the student seating?

Obviously, something must be done to deal with the program's chronic shortfall, but Selig shouldn't punish fans for their lack of interest. The deficit has existed for years. We call that poor planning and wishful thinking over time, not a sudden emergency. Why should students be forced to pay for poor planning that's not of their making?

Lobbying for the fee increase, President Gary Ransdell said at the Executive Committee meeting that students had recently received many campus improvements for which they haven't been charged, like dorm renovation.

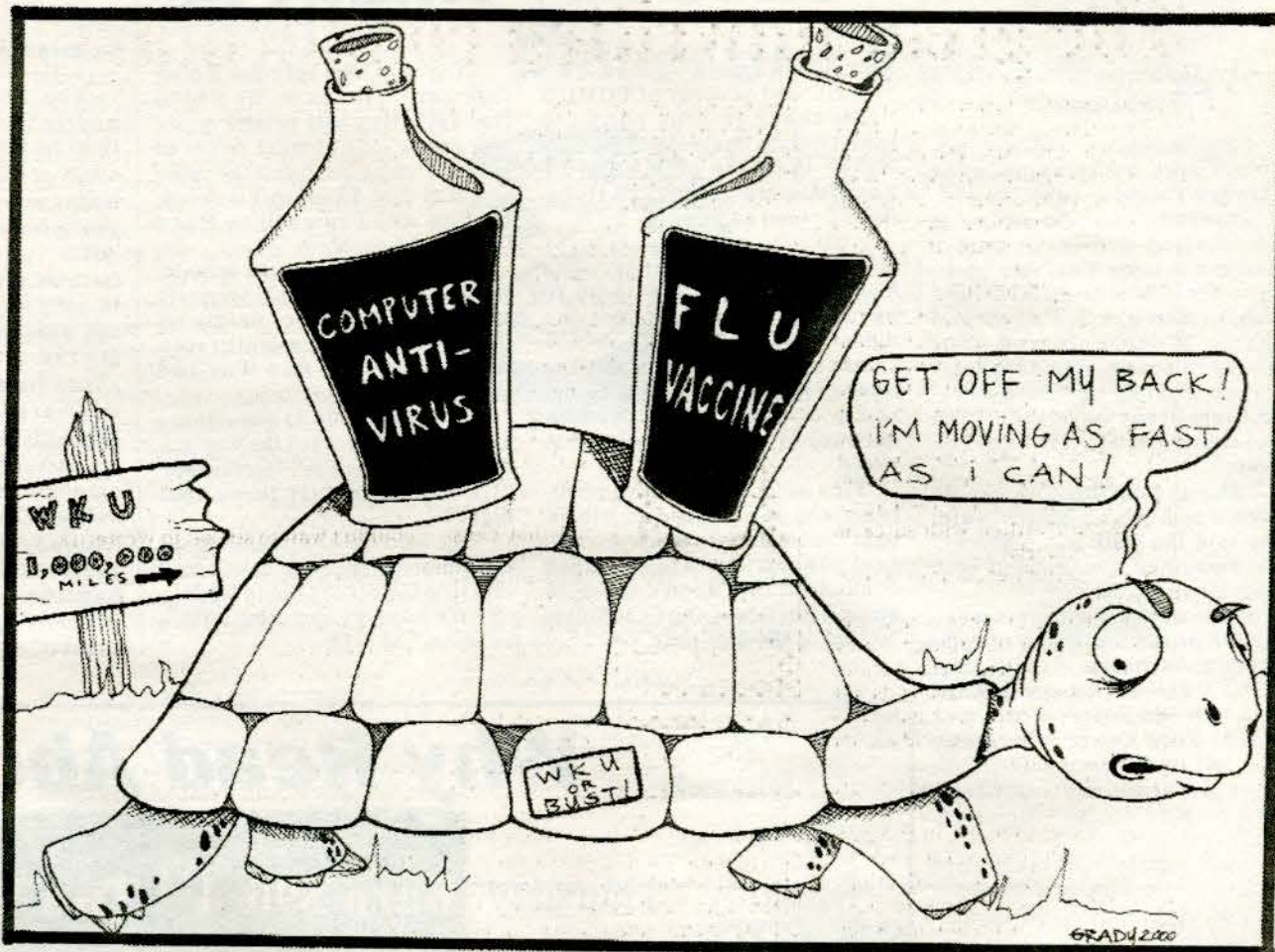
We hope the regents have longer memories than Ransdell, who has conveniently forgotten that regents hiked dorm rates by \$85 last year for sprinkler systems that are being delayed until the full-scale renovation. Students are still paying that fee for sprinklers they don't have.

The only dorm currently under renovation, McLean Hall, will go up in price once it's actually finished, according to Brian Kuster, executive director of the Student Life Foundation.

We hope that instead of listening to speeches on the glory that can be bought with other peoples' money, regents will listen to the voice of the students they serve, through Student Regent Cassie Martin.

The Student Government Association has been surveying students on their opinion of the fee increase. We hope that she can at least reach a compromise between regents' wishes and those of students, perhaps with a smaller increase phased in over a longer period.

But if students' opinions fall on deaf ears, they may have to accept that nothing's free at Western — except boosterish rhetoric.



Occasional commentaries could not keep the Forum page alive

Call the coroner, a trusted friend of Herald readers is dead.

Time of death: 9:33 p.m. Date: Monday, Oct. 23, 2000.

The Forum page as you know it has passed away.

Time and time again there have been pleas for help on this page. All we needed to save it were a few commentaries.

But the Forum page suffered a fatal stroke of apathy yesterday as the Herald staff was left once again with only a handful of submissions.

Perhaps the page has fallen prey to a computer virus — e-mail.

Maybe the opinionated people of this campus can sufficiently air their views on listserves and in classrooms. Maybe the Forum page was just a dinosaur waiting to go extinct.

We've tried resuscitation, but nothing seems to have worked.

I warned members of the Student Government Association at the beginning of the semester that the page would die if leaders like them did not take the time to foster a true voice. They must have thought it was a threat. Or maybe no one cared.

Either way, it seems one of Western's last great outlets for opinion won't be missed.

The Herald still welcomes submissions and we will run a Forum page occasionally if a large number of commentaries warrants it.

The page will make at least one more appearance Nov. 2, in the last Herald before the presidential election.

Beginning now we are accepting three types of submissions: commentaries endorsing Democratic candidate Al Gore, commentaries endorsing Republican candidate George W. Bush and commentaries endorsing any third-party candidate.

Opinion Editor Jim Gaines and myself will review all submissions and choose the best from each category for publication that day.

Again, the page will not run if we have not received a sufficient number of commentaries by one week from today.

As always, Letters to the Editor

on any issue will be accepted and printed on the Opinion page.

And maybe one day, in the not-so-apathectic future, the Forum page will rise from the dead.

Charlie Lanter, editor-in-chief of the Herald, is a senior print journalism and government double major from Lexington.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be less than 250 words, typewritten and signed by the author.

Please include your phone number, hometown and class identification or job title.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Also, the Letters to the Editor section may not run in every edition because of space constraints.

Submit your letters or commentaries between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Herald office in 122 Garrett Center.

Or you can send them via e-mail to herald@wku.edu.



Charlie Lanter
commentary

Quotes & Notes

Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore, speaking to a crowd of 40 George W. Bush supporters in Bowling Green last Thursday about the importance of education to the Republican party:

“ It's not just about quantity of education and throwing money at it. It's about quality of education. ”

College Heights Herald

www.wkuherald.com

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Forum

The great unwritten commentary

Sometimes it just won't come. Sometimes, you have an idea. Maybe you have two. You can paint the whole picture in your head, complete with allegory, allusions and even alliterations. But when it comes time to write it all out, you've got nothin'.

Absolutely NOTHIN'. Anyway, I had a great idea. I was going to do a commentary about tobacco — how the big companies have to make anti-smoking commercials, how they were forced to give money to people who apparently didn't know breathing a harsh black smoke into their lungs was harmful. It would've been cynical and biting, filled with sarcasm and witty remarks.

But I couldn't get it into words. Go figure.

I was going to write about the "truth.com" ad campaign, how ridiculous it is that these people encourage us to rip tobacco ads out of magazines — with the small-type disclaimer "only rip out ads from magazines you own."

I'm telling you, I had it all planned out.

I was going to mention the government and their total lack of logic when it comes to all things drug-related. I was going to pose the question: Why is smoking a cigarette — which causes lung cancer, excessive littering (be honest, where do you put your butts when you're cruisin' down the road?) and, last but not least, bad breath — still legal? What is so different about smoking tobacco than marijuana? The marijuana contains

less tar and nicotine. The marijuana isn't as physically addictive, it isn't as hard to grow and, let's face it, it has a much more interesting effect on the user.

I knew that people would mention the notion that marijuana is linked to short-term brain damage, and therefore shouldn't be legalized. And to rebut, I was going ask why a drug like alcohol — which helps kill around 600 people in drunken driving accidents each year — is still legal. I'm talking about the same alcohol that causes tens of thousands of deaths each year due to alcohol poisoning.



R. Justin Shepherd
commentary

Once again, my mind was blank. I wanted to suggest that by legalizing marijuana, which is already a daily part of many people's lives, the government could regulate the drug, make sure that what people are getting is safe and (here's the plus for Uncle Sam) tax the drug like it does everything else.

Man, how I wanted to write all that stuff — I just couldn't get the words from my head to the page. But so it goes.

I had this other great idea, one for a column about our campus and

the insane amount of construction that's going on right now. I would've described walking from Cherry Hall to Tate Page Hall, how I saw two different parking areas blocked off, heard deafening amounts of drilling, jackhammering and '80s rock (the latter coming from the 'struction workers who've been gutting McLean), and there would've been a clever joke about all the amounts of hard-working rear-end cleavage, using the old "I saw more crack than ..." gag, of course.

I was going to ask: What happened to summer? Couldn't some of this stuff have been done then? I couldn't wait to stick it to Western's administration, putting our collective dollars into all this construction, and we still have no safe way to get from one side of University Boulevard to the other.

Oh well. Sometimes you just have to give up. And that's what I've decided to do.

Rather than write out a humorous, witty commentary on these crazy times we're living in, I finally decided to give you all the facts and just let you write your own commentary. Form your own opinions, make your own jokes, even write yourself some ignorant and totally-missing-the-obvious hate mail.

Usually, I'd already have it done for you. But I've got a mental block, and you'll just have to deal with it.

R. Justin Shepherd is sophomore print journalism major from Shepherdsville.

Big Red Bandits should take heed

A letter to the guys who stole the stuffed Big Red from the University Bookstore on Thursday:

Stealing Big Red is not funny. But I have to hand it to you, Big Red Bandits — your felonious caper has caused quite a commotion on campus, leaving us to wonder who snatched our 60-pound school-spirit soul. And why.

It is my theory that you have stolen our marvelous mascot in order to hold him for some sort of ransom. I can see it now: somewhere in a damp, dirty basement, you have tied Big Red to a chair. He is gagged, beaten and bruised. A mixture of blood and saliva drips from his mouth as he says the prayer that all abducted icons say when they are in distress.

"Why God? Oh, why would someone want to steal me? I'm just a stupid stuffed animal. Hell, I'm not even really an animal. Just a ... red blob with arms and legs. What kind of people would do

such an unfunny thing?"

But no matter how much Big Red begs and pleads, he isn't coming home anytime soon. And you are not going to get your ransom money no matter what you do to our huggable hero. It is President Gary Ransdell's policy not to negotiate with terrorists.

Witnesses to your not-very-comical crime said your caper looked as if it was a conspiracy. It was a well-planned heist, and for this, I must commend you. I also like the fact that the crime reports show your ethnic diversity: a white male and a black male. It's nice to see that we are breaking down some of the ugly barriers that have prevented interracial wrongdoing in the past.

But it's still not funny. And this is the issue I must address.

Expecting students to pay \$122.50 extra to make Western's athletes more competitive, thinking you can walk worry-free across University Boulevard, Bible Jim Weber — these things are funny.

But stealing Big Red — this is no laughing matter.

In the words of William Jefferson Clinton, "You will not find a safe harbor. We will find you and justice will prevail."

Taylor Loyal is a junior print journalism major from Roanoke, Va.



Taylor Loyal
commentary

Grubbing for grades isn't worth the time

Recently I had an economics professor tell me that I was wasting my ability by just "getting by." This inspired my thoughts on such a thing, and I wondered what I would get out of an A: a night wasted by reading over material that I would forget a week later. Another moment I could have been mingling with a girl or making a business contact for later on down the road. In other words, giving up fun for — dare I say? — work.

Let's face it. We've been admitted to an institution of higher learning not because of our supreme intellect, our unbridled creativity or our quick wit. No, you're a college student because you're very good at telling people — especially teachers — exactly what they want to hear. Many have mastered the art of cramming their brains full of information for the sole purpose of regurgitating it onto a 25-cent blue book or a fill-in-the-bubble form. You are a data dump truck.

But hey, college isn't supposed to be about learning, it's supposed to be about parties and dating and even beer, right? About learning what to do with these things in your life? Obviously, the real reason you are here is to acquire the knowledge, the know-how and the knack to become a productive member of society. You're not going to become a cultured, well-rounded individual by becoming an information sponge — though you just might earn a 4.0 and graduate with honors. Studying implies preparing for an examination. The statement "I have to study" means "In order to effec-

tively fool the professor into believing I possess the necessary level of understanding, I intend to artificially inflate my intelligence for the duration extending from the beginning to the end of the test." Translation: I'm going to pull a fast one on my professor.

My point is that your motives should be in line with your efforts. If you want to enrich yourself through intellectual stimulation, read your textbooks, talk to your professors and learn as much as you possibly can. If you want to scrape by with minimal effort and maximum rewards, cramming at 2 a.m. will earn you a job in an industry of your choice.

But these people that have always been able to prepare for the test the night before will soon realize that in the real world, knowing what is going to be on the test is a thing of the past. You have to really know your subject if you want to succeed.

There's nothing wrong with learning. It's supposed to be the reason you're in college. When you take a class, learn the material so you'll never forget it. It doesn't matter what you make on the final; what matters is whether or not you can honestly recall the material and the concepts from that course.

Maybe if there is such a thing as a real-life pop test, and people were required to be ready every day for a possible exam, we could really see who the smart kids are and who is faking it.

A pop test would not scare me. I don't study when we do have exams, and I make my "gentleman's C" and move on. My advice to a professor wanting more out of his students is to make it harder to pass.

I want a degree. I don't want an honor cord.

I need a challenge. I don't need an A.

Gabriel Fancher is a senior economics major from Horse Cave.



Gabriel Fancher
commentary



Shake 'em, swing 'em, love 'em

Hang on, men: I've discovered the answer to one of the great mysteries of the universe — why women flip their hair.

I admit it's not the secret to keeping our own hair, but it's a start. It's simple, really. To quote a great fictional scientist, it was there all the time. I know because I can flip mine now, too. And I do. Often. We, the flippables, do it because we can!

It's liberating, therapeutic even. Swinging my hair is like doing that thing from the beer commercial — WAAAAZZZZAAAAAP!!

I've been wearing my hair in dreadlocks for about six months now, and I love it. I've thrown away all my hair care tools. No more picks, combs and brushes.

That's tools, not hair care supplies. Yes, I can get it wet. Yes, I can wash it. No, you can't touch it. Don't ask me anymore.

But back to flipping. For years, I couldn't swing my hair. Short, conservative styles had me in same-

hair bondage. In less than two years, I've been bald, braided, afroed and tight-faded. No more. I can flip now.



Malcolm C. Knox
commentary

After showering, I shake my head vigorously to shed excess water. Almost every time I pass by a mirror I shake my head from left to right and watch my locks stick straight out; then up and down, watching the ones on top flop back and forth.

If you see me in the bathroom, guys, don't mind me. It's therapy.

It's also low-maintenance. With one shake last week, I was ready for a job interview. I felt better.

And I bet I'll get the job.

Of course, it's not all good. It seems to stay wet forever, and I can't have that with winter coming. My baby blue shower cap looks silly, but it's better than a frozen head.

I often get odd looks from people, maybe even fear. When I run into others with locks, it's often a cordial "What up, dread?"

I guess it balances out. Once I was asked if I was related to Western football player Bobby Sippio. After thinking about it, I realized that even if I were, hairstyles aren't genetic. And I wouldn't take nothing for my hair now (Thanks, Maya).

A friend told me a few weeks ago that I need to pray about this new style of mine. I didn't think of it at the time, but she needs to pray about getting used to it, because it's not going anywhere.

Malcolm C. Knox is a senior print journalism major from Louisville.

SURVEY: Executive Council to meet

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Martin said actual survey results will be compiled sometime this week. The results will then be presented to board members by e-mail. Comments students added to the surveys will also be sent to the board.

Bedo said she hopes board members take the results into consideration.

"I don't see how they ignore hard data," she said.

SGA leaders also plan to write a resolution formally stating the group's opinion about the survey.

Martin met with SGA's legislative research committee last night to discuss possible positions the organization may take on the issue. Under consideration are complete opposition to the fee and a recommendation that the decision be postponed.

SGA's Executive Council will meet today and write the resolution after members decide what position to take. The resolution will then be read and voted on at tonight's meeting.

Bedo also suggested that students who wish to express further concern about the issue e-mail any SGA officer or send their input to sga@wku.edu.

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BANDITS: Staff hopes Big Red will return

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

said one co-worker was helping a customer, but she doesn't know where the other associate was.

McGowan, a Hopkinsville senior, said she had turned around to check the clock because it was near closing time. When she turned back around the two men came in the bookstore, grabbed the stuffed Big Red and ran out the door.

"They picked it up pretty good and they were running pretty fast. I didn't get a good look at them at all. I just know one was white and one was black."

McGowan said the two men ran down the long hallway on the third floor and, at first, no one chased them.

"I got up and tried to figure out where they went," McGowan said. "I was trying to figure out if they had went into one of the rooms."

McGowan said the two men went down a fire escape at the

end of the hallway.

"I believe it leads outside," McGowan said. "No one else was on the third floor apparently. Of all the people in the bookstore, I was the only one to see anything."

Wallace said there is a stairway at the end of the hallway that the two men may have used to escape.

McGowan said it is possible that the entire episode, which happened in a matter of seconds, was a prank.

"I would think so, otherwise why would anyone else try to steal it?" McGowan said.

Although the doll was valued at close to \$500, Bookstore Director Paul McDougal said it was not for sale.

"To us, as a promotional piece it is fairly significant," McDougal said. "We purchased it as a promotional piece as part of our display fixtures. We'd like to have him back."

McDougal said there is always speculation if a crime like this was a prank, and he doesn't know what motivated the cul-

prits.

"I'm hoping that it would reappear," McDougal said. "It might be wishful thinking on my part. I would hope they would bring it back to us if it was a prank."

Two people could have lifted

the 60-pound Big Red with ease, McDougal said.

"It was heavy, but not overwhelming," he said. "It has a low center of gravity."

As for McGowan, she said she will keep a close eye out for future Big Red bandits.

**"I would hope they
would bring it back to us
if it was a prank."**

— Paul McDougal
WKU Bookstore director

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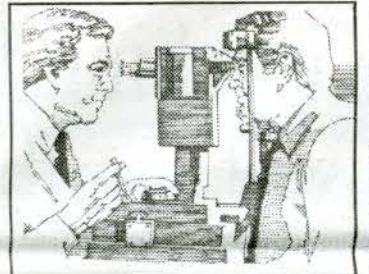
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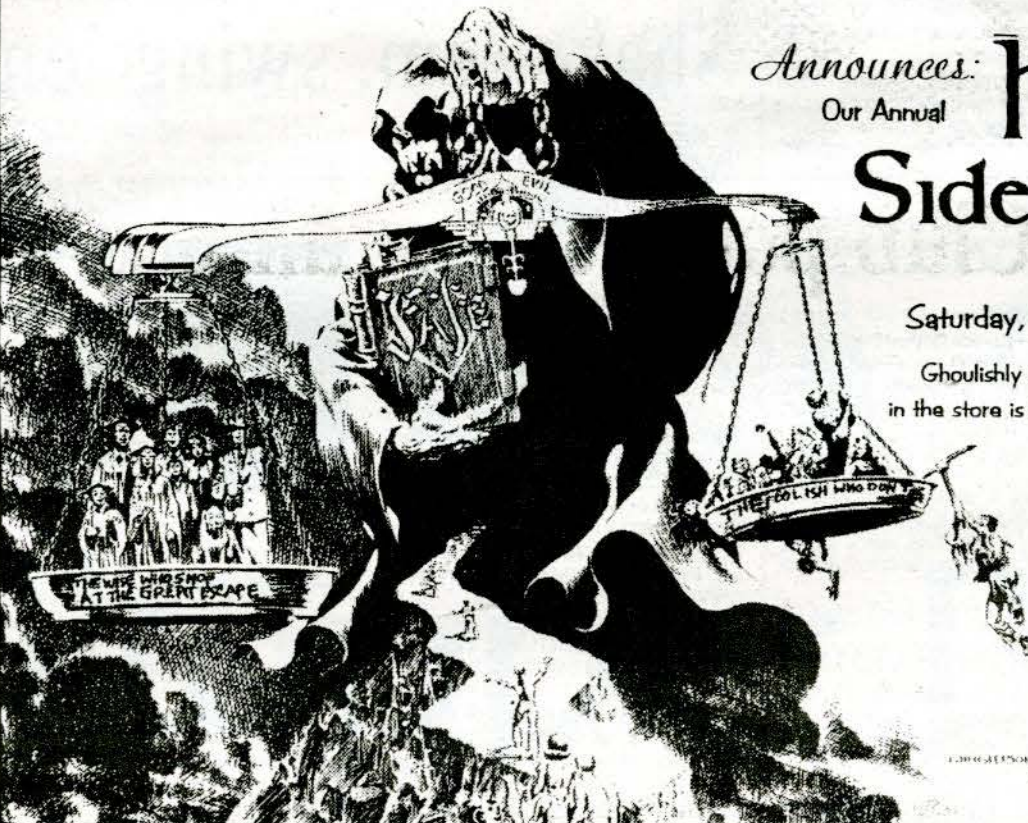
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Features

An Uphill Climb

After facing adversity, Emily Q. Shults is focusing on new beginnings

BY ERICA WALSH
Herald reporter

Hanging above her bed is a poster of Half Dome, a mountain in Yosemite National Park. Beside it, resting on a shelf, is a snapshot of her at the top. This is what Emily Q. Shults wants you to notice.

Shults, a Bowling Green senior, doesn't want people to focus on the fact that she almost died or that there was a chance the entire left side of her body could have been paralyzed. She doesn't want to focus on the meningitis. Instead, she wants to focus on the fact that she's alive and that she has a new cause — Campus Scouts, a club for anyone wanting to play outside.

Shults has always loved the outdoors. Playing rugby, camping, canoeing — if it involves nature, Shults is all about it.

Last spring, doctors weren't sure if any of her outdoor activities would be possible. In March, Shults was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis. Doctors didn't know if she would survive, and even if she did, there was a chance she could be partially paralyzed.

But Shults beat the odds in both cases. After spending just under three weeks in the hospital and undergoing physical therapy, she's made a full recovery.

"This summer was a big affirmation of 'Hey, I'm alive again,'" she said.

Shults began her summer with a backpacking trip to Yosemite that she had been planning before she got sick.

In late May, Shults and friends from her canoe base in Minnesota spent a week in San Francisco, then a week in Yosemite.

While in Yosemite, the group took several hiking trips, one of which included climbing Half Dome. Shults was still working on getting the muscles on the left side of her body back to normal, but that didn't hold her back.

"It was definitely a very strenuous trip," she grinned. "It was like, 'woo-hoo,' although really out of breath."

Still, climbing to the top of a mountain wasn't the peak of Shults' summer.

After Yosemite, Shults and her younger sister Katie spent the rest of the summer as canoe guides at a Girl Scout base in Minnesota. Emily and Katie, who Katie says have been best friends all their lives, spent the summer taking Girl Scouts on wilderness trips.

That was where Shults felt she made the biggest difference.

"For some reason, that sort of thing, it was a worthwhile achievement," she said. Her sister had the same kind of

SEE CLIMB, PAGE 8



Emily Q. Shults pushes past EKU's rugby team on Saturday at the Hattie Preston Intramural Complex. Left: Shults, left, and her sister Katie celebrate after defeating EKU on Saturday. Shults is starting a Campus Scouts program for anyone wanting to help the community and participate in outdoor activities.

photos by Kathleen Flynn/Herald

Campus Life

Columnist: enjoy living while young

When most of us graduate, we'll get real jobs, move into our own places and spend time being grown-ups.

We'll go to bed at a reasonable hour, wake up on time, get our kids to the bus stop, kiss our honeys goodbye and run our respective legs of the rat race.

We'll listen to mellow music, watch CNN and eat healthy food, because our bodies are our temples.

But that's after graduation. Until then, we're going to party.

On Thursdays, many of us party — and drink — a lot.

Hey, Western's a party school. So on Thursdays, it's not uncommon to see folks at the local bars, dancing and drinking and playing pool by a jukebox that's cranking some Skynyrd, man.

Or, there are guys and gals sprawled out on futons in apartments, just a little South of Sobriety, watching TV or singing along to Bocephus and George Thorogood.

I must admit, I've been known to partake in the uh, quenching of my thirst or whatnot. All my rowdy friends come over and do the same.

My Thai roommate from last semester, "Bom" as we call him, used to whip up some saki and sing "Why don't we get drunk and screw?" with Jimmy Buffett, Coral Reefers and the guys.

And when I party with my current roommate, we're a lot like Pinky and the Brain from "Animaniacs."

"So, Brain, what are we gonna do tomorrow night?"

"The same thing we do every night, Pinky: drink."

It's all in good fun, even if getting to Friday classes is harder than last Saturday's pizza crust.

We should have fun while we're here. We spend too much time in class, working and doing homework as it is. We won't have time to party after graduation 'cause we'll be too busy mowing our lawns and reading The Wall Street Journal.

So there's no harm in having fun while we have the chance. Just don't carry open beers down the street. Trust me on that one. I fought the law, and the law won.

And don't get me wrong, I don't mean it's good to be an alcoholic in college. It's very possible to have a good time without alcohol. In fact, there's nothing more fun than kickin' back with your buds (not Buds, or, even more illegal, bud), talking about the good old days.

As long as you keep your grades up and make it to most of your classes, it's a good stress reliever to party in college. Lord knows you've got your work cut out for you when you graduate.

I bet my liver wishes I would hurry up and get my diploma though. Until then, drink up.

Jacob Bennett is a senior print journalism major from Brandenburg.



Jacob Bennett
commentary

Grrr ... Lions Club pounces on campus

BY ERIN Y. BRAZLEY
Herald reporter

The organization that has given eyesight to hundreds of thousands of people, donated computers to the local library and given poor families gifts for Christmas is now coming to Western.

Three local Lions Club members have established a campus-based chapter, hoping to include students, staff and alumni.

The Lions Club is, known for its community service — helping the handicapped, holding blood drives, providing homes for the economically disadvantaged, restoring sight to young children and recycling eyeglasses, giving them to people in the Third World.

The organization offers leadership opportunities where members get hands-on experience in organizing a blood drive or a Christmas

parade.

Representatives from the club will be in the lobby of Downing University Center every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in October from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They hope to find students interested in joining the organization.

The idea for a Lions Club at Western started last spring when Jerry Bennett, the District Governor, learned of Murray State University's success in forming a chapter.

"Murray has one chapter and 42 members on campus," Bennett said. "We have three chapters, so we'd like to have 30 or 40 members on the WKU chapter."

To date, Western's Lions Club chapter has 15 members and plans to have its first meeting in

November. The organization hasn't set a date for that meeting because Bennett said he is waiting on more members.

Ordinarily there is a \$26 joining fee, but students can join for free.

For more information:

Contact •
Jerry Bennett: 745-7085
or 745-8358
796-2983
Virgil Hale:
John Carr: 842-0238

There are three Lions Clubs in Bowling Green and each has a record of service projects. One of those clubs, the Breakfast Club, gave braces to a young woman who couldn't walk.

Another, the Noon Club, donated new computers to the Bowling Green Public

Library.

The third, the Evening Club, donated 100 pairs of glasses to people who couldn't afford them and provided eye examinations for people who needed them.

'Bedazzled' story too familiar

Review: 'Bedazzled'
Grade: C

BY MICHEAL COMPTON
Herald reporter

"Bedazzled" is a basic by-the-numbers comedy with an overused and all-too-familiar story. To its credit, the film really tries to be fresh and original. Unfortunately, predictable material ultimately beats out a likable cast and lively direction.

The film stars Brendan Fraser as Elliot Richards, a likable enough goof who can't get anyone to notice him, let alone a girl like Alison (Frances O'Conner). What's a lonely guy to do?

The answer comes in the sudden appearance of a mysterious woman (Elizabeth Hurley). The

woman claims to be the devil and offers Elliot seven wishes to fulfill all his fantasies, on the condition that he agrees to give up his soul.

Elliot agrees and begins to make his wishes. But with each wish, the devil throws a curve — putting just enough of a twist to ruin Elliot's ideal state of bliss.

Of course, since this is a comedy, most of the curves have humorous implications. Elliot wants to be rich and powerful? Make him a Colombian drug lord. He wants to be a huge athletic, imposing macho male? Make him less masculine in a certain area. He wants to be charming and sophisticated? Make him homosexual. You get the idea.

Fraser and Hurley are both amiable enough in their respective roles. Fraser has always had a goofy charm, while Hurley really seems to have a good time playing

the bad girl.

Director Harold Ramis has shown a nice eye for comedy in his earlier works "Analyze This" and "Groundhog's Day," adding the little things that separate mediocre comedies from ingenious comedies.

Ramis tries to keep the film running at a fairly breezy pace, perhaps hoping that no one will realize how monotonous the film actually is. Where "The Ladies Man" felt padded at 90 minutes, "Bedazzled" feels overstuffed, not allowing the audience any time to really get to know Fraser's character.

The screenplay should have been darker, especially considering the soapbox mentality the film takes in its cop-out ending.

All of which led me to one burning question: Wouldn't it be nice if the devil actually got the soul for a change?

OK, maybe it's just me.

Around Campus

Hubble presentation displays telescope photos

Pictures taken by the Hubble telescope will be shown as a part of a presentation at the planetarium.

The show runs at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday from now until Nov. 5, with the exception of Halloween.

For more information contact

Hardin planetarium at 745-4044

— Kandice Gray

Art exhibit showcases student's work

Glasgow junior Clay Smith will be presenting an art exhibit in the fine arts center until Wednesday. The show is untitled, but described as a series of pieces dealing with issues such as abortion.

— Erica Walsh

Ideas? Complaints?
Call the **Herald** at 745-6011.

CLIMB: Scouts meet tonight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

experience.

"It's hard to explain," Katie said. "It changes your life."

Those kinds of experiences are what Shults hopes to bring to the Campus Scouts club she's trying to start.

"This is my new cause," she said.

Campus Scouts is an extension of Girl Scouting, but Shults thinks the program needs some reworking. She and Bowling Green senior Charlynn Burd want to develop the club so that women ages 18-25 have a way to be more involved in the Girl Scout organization. That age group is stuck in the

If you go

What: Campus Scouts

When: 7 p.m. tonight

Where: DUC, Room 341

middle — they are too old to be in a troop and too young to be troop leaders. Anyone is invited to join Campus Scouts, regardless of previous Girl Scout experience or gender.

"We're testing the waters," Burd said. "We want to see if there's an interest on campus."

The new club will give members a chance to be involved and help them bridge the gap from school to the workplace.

"Hopefully, it will help

them become really strong, capable women," Shults said.

Burd also said members will get what they want out of the club, whether they want to focus on community service or outdoor activities.

"It will just depend on the dynamic of the group," Burd said.

Shults said one of her main goals for the club is to become involved with local chapters of Girl Scouts, so the members can become mentors for younger girls and the organization will be a resource for the community.

"(Girl Scouts) is a really great program," she said. "It has a lot to give and a lot to get from it."

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Sports

Toppers overwhelm Tennessee St. 52-14

BY BRIAN MOORE
Herald reporter

NASHVILLE — If Tennessee State had a touchdown for every Steve McNair or Eddie George jersey gracing Adelphia Coliseum's lower concourse, this Ohio Valley Conference match-up may have been a ballgame.

Instead, fans wearing replica jerseys of the Tennessee Titans' stars were treated to a Western fireworks show.

The Hilltoppers launched a stellar defensive and special teams attack in the 67,000-seat home of the Tigers and the National Football League's Titans. They didn't even let the TSU band, which played throughout the game regardless of the

on-field happenings, distract them from remaining unbeaten this season.

Western (7-0, 6-0 OVC), now ranked 8th nationally, can lock up the conference championship at home Saturday with a win over Eastern Illinois (6-1, 4-0). It is Western's last conference game of the season.

"We feel great about this victory, but we've still got a big game next week — probably the biggest game of the season," said sophomore cornerback Bobby Sippio, who intercepted two passes and ran one back 82 yards for a touchdown. "We've got to have our best week of practice and see who wants it most on Saturday. Today,

SEE TOPPERS, PAGE 12

Brooks is poster child for playing injured

NASHVILLE — Give Western tailback Keith Brooks a Purple Heart for courage under fire.

And if purple doesn't suit him, arrangements can be made to paint it Hilltopper red.

Two weeks ago when Brooks went down against Eastern Kentucky, the preliminary diagnosis was a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee — a season-ending injury.



OUT OF BOUNDS

Kyle Hightower

As it turned out, the initial diagnosis was incorrect.

The ACL tear actually occurred four years ago and he has been playing on it ever since.

Let me put that in perspective.

Brooks unknowingly tore his ACL his senior year of high school and has been playing collegiate football on a

SEE BOUNDS, PAGE 10



H. Rick Mach/Herald

Freshman cornerback Jeremy Chandler upends Tennessee State freshman wide receiver Batavia Weldon in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game at Adelphia Coliseum in Nashville. Western, which won 52-14, is now ranked eighth nationally, according to ESPN. The Hilltoppers face Eastern Illinois this Saturday in Smith Stadium to decide the Ohio Valley Conference champion.

Western soccer picks up two road wins

Defensive starter breaks arm

BY MICHAEL COMPTON
Herald reporter

The Western soccer team couldn't have picked a better time to streak.

The Hilltoppers won two conference road games over the weekend, beating Southwest Missouri State, 2-0, on Sunday and Tulsa, 2-1, Friday. That marked the first time Western (7-9, 5-3 Missouri Valley Conference) has won back-to-back games all season.

The wins moved the Hilltoppers to fourth in the MVC and puts them in position to earn a first-round match-up at home in next month's conference tournament.

But the news wasn't all good for the Hilltoppers. Senior defender Scott Gardner broke his left arm with only a few minutes remaining in Sunday's game. Gardner, a four-year starter, may be lost for the rest of the season.

"We've got to replace a player that has been a tough component for us," Coach David Holmes said. "It is a tremendous loss."

Western wasted no time taking the lead on Southwest Missouri St. (8-5-2, 3-4-1 MVC) as

senior forward Steven Brown took a pass from senior midfielder Donovan Schultz and gave the Hilltoppers a 1-0 lead in the 18th minute.

"We knew if we scored, especially early, it would get in their heads," Brown said. "They have been in the same type of funk we were in early in the season, wondering how they were going to score."

Junior forward Derek O'Brien added a goal early in the second half, giving the Hilltoppers their final margin of victory.

"We had a terrific match from the attacking end," Holmes said. "Schultz played his best game as a Hilltopper. Derek O'Brien was outstanding. The seniors really stepped forward with a capital S."

In addition to Gardner's injury, junior defender Kyle Wuchterl received his fifth yellow card of the season in the contest, meaning Wuchterl must sit out of the next game.

"Missing two starters is really gonna hurt us," junior defender Steve Gardner said. "We've been playing so well, we're gonna have to change everything around now."

In Friday's game, Western got two goals from Brown in the game's first 19 minutes. The Golden Hurricane (8-6-1, 3-4-1 MVC) cut the lead to 2-1 in the 78th minute on a goal from junior Brent Bayouth.

Despite numerous shots on goal, the Hilltoppers held on.

"They really peppered us in the second half," Holmes said. "There were many nervous moments, but we survived."

Brown agreed that the second half provided some tense moments for Western.

"We were able to take the pressure in the second half, but they bombarded us," Brown said.

While Gardner's injury was a huge setback for the Hilltoppers, Holmes said the team should be proud of their play last weekend.

"We did something that not too many people are gonna do and that is to go to the 'dark side' and get those wins," Holmes said.

Western will conclude its home schedule this weekend, hosting Eastern Illinois on Friday and Bradley on Sunday. Eastern Illinois and Bradley boast two of the most prolific scorers in the country in Jason Thompson and Gavin Ginton, respectively. Thompson has 19 goals this season. Ginton has 15 and is tied for his school's season record.

"We are going to be facing a couple of offensive powerhouses," Holmes said. "But I believe we are playing the best soccer we have been playing all year right now. We'll be ready."

Swim teams sweep meets

BY BRANDY WARREN
Herald reporter

New swimmers. Same results.

Both Western's men's and women's swim teams won all three of their meets over the weekend against Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Wisconsin-Green Bay.

"I was really pleased with our freshmen," Coach Bill Powell said. "They really held up well."

Powell was also pleased that the team did well on Saturday after two days of meets.

The team had strong performances from freshmen like Dan Cheek, who won the 1000-meter freestyle and 500-meter freestyle on Thursday, then the 200-meter freestyle on Friday and the 1650-meter freestyle on Saturday.

"It was quite an easy meet for us," Cheek said.

Several other freshmen fared well, including Clayton Delaney in the 200-meter breaststroke on Thursday and Friday and Kevin Kleman in the 500 and 1000-meter freestyles.

Junior David Tucker won both the 50 and 100-meter freestyles on Thursday and the 100 freestyle on Friday.

On the women's side, the team had strong showings from both upperclassmen and freshmen. Junior Sydney Mountford won the 200 and 500-meter freestyles on Thursday, the 100 and 1000-meter

freestyles on Friday, and the 200-meter freestyle on Saturday. Junior Brandi Carey won the 200-meter individual medley on Thursday, the 200-meter freestyle and 200-meter butterfly on Saturday and the 50 and 100-meter freestyles on Saturday.

Powell was also pleased with sophomore Deanne Thomas, who won the 200-meter backstroke on Thursday and Friday, and the 100-meter backstroke on Saturday.

Mountford said the women's team fell behind during the first meet but then came back to win.

"We pulled together and showed the other team we were there for business," she said.

Powell was satisfied with both the men and women divers at the meets.

Senior Michelle Lynch won the 1-meter diving on Thursday and Saturday and the 3-meter diving on Friday. Freshman Marci Kascir won the 1-meter diving on Friday and the 3-meter diving on Saturday.

On the men's side, sophomore Chuck Delong won the 1-meter diving on Friday and sophomore Donny Glass won the 3-meter diving on Friday.

The next swim meet will be against Butler and Cumberland College on Nov. 3 and 4 at the Preston Center.

"I was really pleased with our freshmen. They really held up well."

— Bill Powell
Western swim coach

BOUNDS: Brooks thanks God

Continued From Page 9

bum knee for three seasons, never complaining until aggravating that injury against Eastern.

And he won't have surgery to fix the original injury until the end of this season.

Forget those guys that play both ways. That's true ironman football.

During a post-game interview Saturday, Western coach Jack Harbaugh likened his team to a group of thoroughbred horses.

If his teammates are thoroughbreds, Brooks is a Clydesdale.

If his backfield mates are the stars of Western's high-powered rushing production, Brooks is the stagehand.

Jack Harbaugh called what Brooks has been able to accomplish "amazing." He said two weeks ago the coaching staff had all but given up on the stocky, 5-foot-9-inch junior. To date, Brooks continues to be an integral part of the Hilltoppers' still-undefeated campaign.

Saturday against Tennessee State, Brooks was one of eight Toppers to score in Western's rout of the Tigers. He put Western up 13-0 in the first quarter on a crafty piece of running — cutting and slashing his way into the end zone from

"When you get a knee injury, it's not easy. It takes a while to build some confidence on it, but I think (running back Keith Brooks is) doing that."

— Jack Harbaugh
Western football coach

four yards out — turning a tidal wave of TSU blue inside Adelphia Coliseum into a trickle of blue tears.

"When you get a knee injury, it's not easy," Harbaugh said. "It takes a while to build some confidence on it, but I think he's doing that. That first quarter I really felt he kicked it into high gear for us."

This season, Brooks has rushed for 426 yards — a total second only to DeWayne Gallishaw's 500, on 30 fewer carries — and leads all Western players with eight touchdowns.

Not bad for a guy on one leg. Not bad for a guy on two legs.

But Brooks doesn't think of himself as anything special. He's much too modest to take the time to congratulate himself.

"Team unity and the grace

of God — I just thank God for letting me come out here for another game," Brooks said. "God has blessed me this long. I can't stop now."

Inside the Western home locker room, there's a sign displayed near the football office entrance way:

Us Vs. Them, 100 Miles Per Hour.

Brooks likes that sign. Like Samson's hair in the Bible story, he said it gives him strength.

"We've got a lot of different teams in this league that don't want to see us succeed, so it's us vs. them," Brooks said. "There are nothing but Western fans and us. That's it."

In all Western's successes this season, one of its Achilles' heels has been an injury-riddled backfield.

Brooks' knee, Gallishaw and junior fullback Kevin Crisp's necks — the injuries abound.

In their absences, sophomore tailback Jon Frazier and junior fullback Curtis Hamilton handed in big games.

But now, with each fallen Topper back in uniform and seeing quality snaps Saturday, the question must be raised — how good can this backfield be with everyone healthy and a core of understudies able to fill in the gaps?

Brooks thinks he has the answer.

"UT-Martin, what was the score?" Brooks said.

71-0, Keith.

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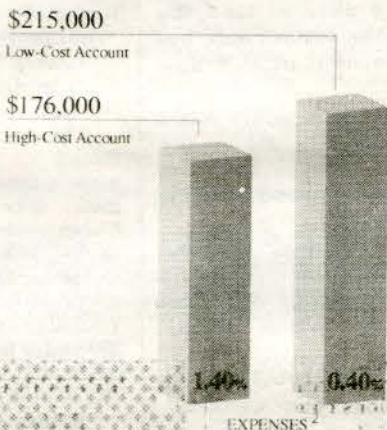
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Tops rest after 20th win

BY KYLE HIGHTOWER
Herald reporter

Travis Hudson did something rare Monday afternoon — he gave his team the day off.

No scheduled practices, no individual workout sessions, no team meetings.

Just one day without volleyball.

Prior to Western's road trip into New Orleans and South Alabama this past weekend, Hudson emphasized the importance of his team not looking past either opponent.

His team got the message.

Friday, the Lady Toppers (20-6, 8-2 Sun Belt Conference) dispatched the Privateers (11-11, 4-5 SBC) 3-1 (15-9, 9-15, 15-9, 15-6) and swept past the Jaguars (7-12, 3-7 SBC) the next day 15-6, 15-7, 15-2 to nail down their 20th victory of the season.

Their 8-2 Sun Belt mark is second only to Arkansas Little-Rock (9-1), who currently leads both the East Division and overall conference standings.

That means that with both Arkansas State and the league-leading Trojans coming to Diddle Arena this weekend, Western — though not in the driver's seat — is at least riding shotgun in its quest for a first-

round bye in November's conference tournament.

"I think it will be a good game against Arkansas-Little Rock, because that game will determine whether or not we will be first in regular season," junior left-side hitter Tara Thomas said. "I think we are all prepared for the game and will be out to get them."

Thomas said she feels confident about how the team is performing offensively and is

pleased with how players like junior outside hitter Natalie Furry have stepped up their games.

Sophomore setter Sara Noe, in her first season as the team's starting setter, said she is getting a handle on what it will take to lead the team in November.

"I think that last spring I felt a little pressure stepping into (Jenni Miller's) role," Noe said, "but now I feel like I'm ready to get the job done."

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TOPPERS: Six players run the football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

we came together on offense and defense and made big plays."

Western coach Jack Harbaugh expressed some concern last week about the distractions of the NFL stadium with its three decks, massive scoreboards, video walls and other amenities.

The Toppers made those distractions an afterthought early and played off the leadership of the upperclassmen, who played in the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Raymond James Stadium two years ago, Harbaugh said.

Early in the first quarter, sophomore backup quarterback Jason Michael recovered a fumble on special teams after a Western punt. A penalty against the Tigers moved the Toppers to the TSU 13-yard line, and senior running back DeWayne Gallishaw ran into the end zone on the ensuing play to put Western on the board with 9:53 left in the first quarter.

A touchdown run by junior running back Keith Brooks and a 26-yard touchdown catch by freshman Antonio Veals followed shortly after. Then, with 2:15 left in the

second quarter, junior strong safety Mel Mitchell blocked a TSU punt and freshman wide receiver Shannon Hayes fell on it in the end zone for a touchdown.

Western 28, TSU 0.

Harbaugh had let the dogs out.

"It's down to one ballgame now," Harbaugh said. "It's down to the OVC championship for us next week in our stadium. I'll be really surprised if we don't fill the stadium and get everybody out of that tailgate area this week."

After the intermission, Western showed no signs of slowing down. It scored 24 third-quarter points to open up a 52-0 lead, fueled by Sippio's interception return and a 45-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback Jason Johnson to sophomore wide receiver Jerome Reaves.

For the first time in several weeks, the Hilltoppers had a plentiful backfield — even if it was a little rusty. Brooks had been out the previous two games with a knee injury. Junior running back Kevin Crisp returned from a neck injury sustained Sept. 23.

Throw Brooks and Crisp in with Gallishaw, who hasn't missed any

games, and sophomores Curtis Hamilton and Jon Frazier, who filled in during the injuries, and Western had the luxury of a five-man rotation running the football.

Six players carried the ball at least four times and the team picked up 222 yards on the ground.

"We're an option team," Reaves said. "If the defensive backs start biting up, then we have to open it up through the air. At running back, I can rely on any of the back-ups on our team. Everybody practices as hard as everybody else."

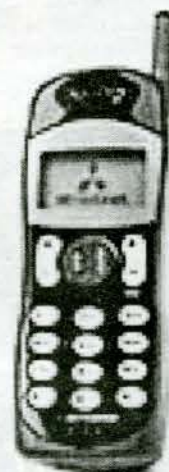
And there are three full practices left until Western plays for its first conference championship since 1980.

Sippio breaks records

Sippio's 119 interception return yards broke a school record for most interception return yards in a game. That boosted the sophomore standout to 182 return yards on the season and 267 career return yards. Both are also school records.

He was named OVC Defensive Player of the Week and leads the conference with six interceptions in six games this season.

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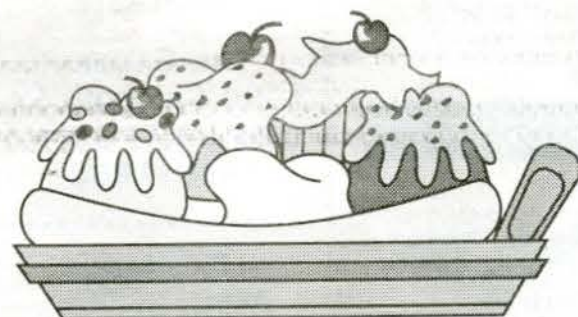
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